

First, we must continue to reduce the federal budget deficit. Keeping the deficit down means less borrowing by the government, thus freeing up funds at lower interest rates for businesses to invest. That should boost the economy and spur job creation. We need to make sure that the U.S. economy continues to generate more jobs than are lost to foreign competition.

Second, we must reassess the more than 150 federal job training and retraining programs to see which ones work and which ones don't. Some should be expanded, others simply dropped. We should accelerate our efforts to create "reemployment centers" and put more of the resources into the hands of ordinary Americans rather than government agencies, so people can get the skills they need in a way that makes sense for them. We need a better safety net for individuals and communities experiencing the downside of open trade.

Third, we must encourage companies to spend more of their profits to continually upgrade the skills of their workers and to retrain workers whose jobs have been lost through trade or technology. U.S. firms generally invest less in worker training than firms abroad, and what they do invest is more heavily concentrated on professional and managerial workers. Skilled workers and important assets, and businesses need to invest more in their development.

Fourth, federal policies should help important industries threatened by foreign competition. Federal research and development grants, tax policy, and deregulation all can help strengthen important U.S. industries and make them more competitive in the global market. We also need to expand the federal manufacturing extension program, which helps small companies adopt the latest production techniques.

Fifth, we must not allow other countries to use the open markets provided by the trade agreements to unfairly harm our industries. We must vigorously prosecute dumping and other unfair trade practices. If a surge of imports is displacing our workers, GATT allows us to take steps to limit those imports. At the same time, we must vigorously pursue our rights in cases where foreign practices restrict our exports. We must make sure that trade agreements mean a level playing field that promotes U.S. exports.

Finally, we must have accurate data about the impact of more open trade on U.S. jobs. Many economists believe that government trade statistics underestimate U.S. exports by some 10%, for a variety of technical reasons. If so, estimates of jobs created by exports are also underestimated. We also need better data on identifying industries hurt by imports.

CONCLUSION

Overall, we must pursue policies which promote economic growth, help strengthen U.S. companies, continually upgrade the skills of our workers, and find new markets for our products abroad. Our number one priority is jobs—good and secure jobs. Our challenge is to promote broad participation by our workforce in this changing environment so that anxious workers can become assured, productive, capable Americans. Improving Americans' job security must be among our highest priorities in the upcoming session of Congress.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION CONCERNING ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1971

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce a bill to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 at the request of the Alaska Federation of Natives. This bill is the result of the work of the Legislative Council of the Alaska Federation of Natives to correct existing technical problems with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act [ANCSA] and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act [ANILCA]. I am introducing an identical version of that which passed the House during the 103d Congress. It is my intention to move this bill early this year based on agreements reached last year.

This bill makes a number of technical changes to ANCSA and ANILCA. It also makes a number of substantive additions which address issues not anticipated at the time of passage of ANCSA. Because of Alaska's relative youth as a State of the Union and the unprecedented amount of Alaska-specific Federal legislation passed since statehood, it is imperative that we respond to occasional oversights and/or quirks in the overlapping laws to ensure that unintended consequences do not occur. This effort is designed to rectify such instances.

The legislation is designed to resolve specific problems. To offer a flavor of the nature of the legislation, a few illustrations are in order.

For example, the bill would make it possible for the Caswell and Montana Creek Native groups to receive approximately 11,520 acres of land pursuant to a February 3, 1976, agreement and subsequent March 26, 1992, letter of agreement with Cook Inlet Region Inc. [CIRI]. This will fulfill their land entitlement from CIRI under the ANCSA.

Another provision would relieve ANCSA corporations of liability for hazardous wastes or contaminants left in, or on, ANCSA lands prior to their conveyance to Native corporations. It also directs the Secretary of the Interior to remove all contaminants left by the United States, an agent of the United States, or lessees prior to conveyance of these lands to the Native corporations. In some instances, the Government has conveyed lands and property interests to Alaska Natives which have been rendered valueless because of such contamination. It was clearly not the intention of ANCSA to extinguish Native claims by conveying contaminated property to recipients.

The Chugach Alaska Kageet Point land selection provision would allow Chugach Alaska Native Corp. to select a specific tract of land at the edge of its own current boundaries.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the spirit of cooperation which was reached last year will continue so we can move this noncontroversial piece of legislation early in this session.

COMPREHENSIVE PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND PROMOTION ACT OF 1995, H.R. 23

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 4, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 23, legislation which will help produce a healthier nation. This measure will cover individuals for periodic health exams, as well as counseling and immunizations.

The Comprehensive Preventive Health and Promotion Act of 1995 will direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services [HHS] to establish a schedule of preventive health care services and to provide for coverage of these services under private health insurance plans and health benefit programs of the Federal Government.

More specifically, the Secretary of HHS, in consultation with representatives of the major health care groups, will establish a schedule of recommended preventive health care services. The list of preventive services will follow the guidelines published in the "Guide to Clinical Preventive Services" and the "Year 2000 Health Objectives." The preventive services will cover periodic health exams, health screening, counseling, immunizations, and health promotion. These services will be specified for males and females, and specific age groups.

Additionally, HHS will publish and disseminate information on the benefits of practicing preventive health care, the importance of undergoing periodic health examinations, and the need to establish and maintain a family medical history to businesses, providers of health care services, and other appropriate groups and individuals.

Moreover, prevention and health promotion workshops will be established for corporations and businesses, as well as for the Federal Government. A wellness program will be established to make grants over a 5-year period to 300 eligible employers to establish and conduct on-site workshops on health care promotion for employees. The wellness workshops can include: Counseling on nutrition and weight management, clinical sessions on avoiding back injury, programs on smoking cessation, and information on stress management.

Finally, my legislation directs HHS to set up a demonstration project which will go to 50 counties over a 5-year period to provide preventive health care services at health clinics. This program will cover preventive health care services for all children, and adults under a certain income level. If above the determined income level, fees will be based on a sliding scale. Additionally, the project will entail both urban and rural areas in different regions of our Nation to educate the public on the benefits of practicing preventive health care, the need for periodic health exams, and the need for establishing a medical history, as well as providing services.

Mr. Speaker, we can all agree that our current health care system needs to be improved, and our Nation needs to become healthier. Experts have concluded that practicing preventive health care does work, and will produce a healthier nation. Although there is a